

George Fred Nolan

I was born on November 2, 1940 at Queen's Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii. My name sake was a [family] friend, Chief Petty Officer in the Navy, who provided moral support to my struggling family. Early years were spent in various ports maintaining intermittent contact with Father until we finally settled in San Pedro, California, where cognitive remembrance begins. Elementary schools attended include Mary Star of the Sea, San Pedro, Solomons, Maryland, Cabrillo, San Pedro, Fairfax in Marin County, Pollack Pines near Placerville and Whites Point, San Pedro. Due to my ability to make friends quickly, by necessity, I was elected the first White Point 6th grade Class President and my political career declined from there.

Fun included the beach and body **surfing**, activities at the YMCA, and exploring the cliffs and seashore along Palos Verdes Peninsula. Transition to and attending Richard Henry Dana Junior High School (alias Blackboard Jungle) was tough, hostile and, at times **life** threatening. Because of my early days at the YMCA boxing program, **I** was able to survive. After school activities included a grueling, 7-day-week, paper route covering the mountainous palisade area of San Pedro which netted about \$20 per month and lasted five years. Scouts was also **an** important outlet for good times and I rose through the ranks to Senior Patrol Leader and Order of the **Arrow**.

I spent many summers with my grandparents and a great deal of my contrariness stems from the strong influence of my Grandmother who attempted to remake me in her own image of denial, hard work, and frugality. On several occasions, these summer stays extended into school year and account for several of the elementary schools I attended. Grandmother Sybenga was truly a unique individual and the most unforgettable character I have ever met. During my high school summers, I was allowed to discover what real work was all about – picking pears for my Uncle Bill and others. This work convinced me that **my** earlier decision to have a naval **career** and go to the Naval Academy was a wise one. Pear picking was not my calling, my first job resulted in my termination--couldn't pick fast enough- a truly humiliating experience.

My first girlfriend was Judi Kanaster¹ who I think to this day my parents felt I should have married. The relationship pined **[ended]** primarily because my last year and half of high school, I attended Army-Navy-Academy in Carlsbad, California. This private school was achieved at great financial sacrifice on the part of family consuming my Mother's salary as a **registered** nurse. According to my parents, this sacrifice only served to turn me into a first class snob. All things considered, I enjoyed this period of my life: sang in the operetta ***Trial by Jury***, received best actor

¹ In 2017, Judi is now Judi Kanaster Haase and still living in San Pedro, CA. She maintains a Facebook page.

award for the role of Misto Bottome in *Brother Rat*, achieved Superior Academy Award, and basically confirmed my desire to make the military a career.

My first attempt for admission to the Naval Academy failed and I attended Long Beach State College for one year. Solely because my Father was career navy, I received a presidential appointment to USNA and graduated in June 1963. USNA was a nice place to be from, but a hellava place to go back to. Plebe year was horrific; I remember getting on the red eye flight back to Annapolis after my first Christmas leave period and would have opted to fly into the gates of hell rather than board that aircraft. Because I did not stand in the top half of my class, Adm Rickover turned down my application for the **naval** nuclear power program and submarines. Navy line is mighty fine and, as often happens, turned out for the best, and after graduation I was assigned to the *USS Benner* (DD807) home ported in Long Beach, California.

I met Bonnie Evelyn Armes, the mother of my three children, while living in Belmont Shores with four civilians, through Al Hively, one of my roommates, a life time friend, and best man at my wedding. After six months at Destroyer School in Newport, R.I. I was assigned to the *USS Taylor* (DD-486) home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Bonnie and I were married in a Roman Catholic ceremony in Lomita, California where six of my USNA classmates acted as ushers. I was soon to be retrained in certain areas such as putting the toilet seat down and reserving the use of the "good paper plates" for the proper social functions which did not include lunch. Marcella Ann, our first born, was born at **Tripler** Army Hospital, Hawaii while I was deployed in the West Pacific. In May **1968**, I reported to the Naval Postgraduate School, in Monterey, California where, two years later, I received a Master of Science in Physics. While in PG school, Elizabeth Jane was **born in** Carmel Hospital. In August 1970 I reported to the staff Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Six in Charleston, South Carolina. It was during this tour that I was again turned down for nuclear power program **by** Adm Rickover after a very stern lecture on my abilities to make effective use of my time and to recall the **physics recitations**. Katherine Marie was born at Charleston Naval Hospital soon after I returned from deployment to the Mediterranean aboard the ***USS America*** (CVA-66)

In September 1972, I reported to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, operated by the University of California for the Atomic Energy Commission and served as a nuclear weapons research associate. Our first house was purchased which caused Bonnie to enter a false sense of economy where she used tea bags twice as her contribution to mortgage affordability.

Having been ordered to the ***USS Enterprise*** (CVAN-65), I was subsequently transferred to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital to undergo a medical evaluation for narcolepsy. I spent eighteen months on medical hold at Treasure Island while the Navy reviewed my case for a medical discharge. The balance of my naval career was spent in Albuquerque, New Mexico serving as a Defense Nuclear Agency, R&D

officer for weapon development. I retired from the navy, started a new career with Los Alamos Technical Associates, and underwent a divorce in 1983. I remarried in 1989 to Joanne E. Nugent (nee Sapp) which lasted less than two years. In 1994 I joined H&R Technical Associates in Richland, Washington.